

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 5494

E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV NP

SUBJECT: M.P. KOIRALA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

REF: KATHMANDU 5414

1. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW DECEMBER 18 EX-PRIME MINISTER M.P. KOIRALA, A BROTHER OF EXILED CONGRESS PARTY LEADER B.P. KOIRALA, EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE KING FOR PROMULGATING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. KOIRALA'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT AN OVERWHELMING ENDORSEMENT; HE SAID THAT THE HISTORY OF NEPAL SHOWS THAT NEPALESE PEOPLE "ALWAYS ACCEPT THE CONSTITUTION GIVEN BY THEIR SOVEREIGN." KOIRALA ADDED THAT THE NEPALESE PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER DOUBT THE GOOD INTENTIONS OR WISDOM OF THE MONARCH AND SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN END IN ITSELF BUT ONLY A MEANS TO ACHIEVE PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KORALA BROKE FROM THE CONGRESS PARTY IN 1960, HE HAS LONG BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LIBERAL REFORM OF THE SYSTEM AND AS SUCH HIS ENDORSEMENT WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE GIRI GOVERNMENT. KOIRALA IS NO LONGER ACTIVE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES BUT REMAINS AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN THE TERAI AND

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IS KNOWN TO MAINTAIN CONTACT NOT ONLY WITH HIS BROTHER IN

INDIA BUT ALSO WITH LIBERAL STUDENTS IN THE BIRATNAGAR AREA. HIS ENDORSEMENT OF REFORM, LIKE THAT OF OTHER EX-CONGRESS PARTY LEADERS, INDICATES THAT AT LEAST ONE INFLUENTIAL SEGMENT OF THE PRO-CONGRESS FORCES HAS DECIDED FOR THE MOMENT TO GO ALONG WITH THE KING'S PROGRAM.

CARGO

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Message Attributes

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